



# OREGON STATE SENATE

DAVID NELSON

STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 29

July 26, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

I am a third generation family farmer whom the people of Northeastern Oregon have honored by electing me to the State Senate for more than a decade. As both a farmer and an elected official, I am intensely aware of the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Oregon and the rest of rural America.

The critical need for broadband in rural areas was well documented in the FCC's National Broadband Plan and subsequent follow-up reports. It is that need which motivates me to suggest that the Commission approve the pending merger of AT&T and T-Mobile. The ambitious deployment of 4G LTE wireless service that AT&T has committed to as a condition of this merger is a rare opportunity to accelerate the spread of rural broadband.

Millions of rural Americans live in areas with no broadband or where the broadband speeds available are too slow to deliver advanced applications, such as distance-learning programs that can open up new opportunities for students in small rural schools.

In 1999, I sponsored legislation that encouraged deployment of rural broadband through public-private partnerships. In view of the national economy and the partisan debate in Congress over spending, AT&T's proposal to fund near nationwide deployment of its 4G LTE network with more than \$8 billion of private capital couldn't come at a more opportune time. It's my hope that the Commission will approve this merger and let America reap the benefits.

Sincerely,

David Nelson  
State Senator  
District 30